



VOL. XXXI.

AUGUSTA, MAINE, THURSDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 1, 1863.

NO. 42.

Maine Farmer.

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Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man.

Agricultural Exhibitions in Maine—1863.

We give below a list of a portion of the Agricultural Exhibitions to be held in this State during the coming autumn. Will the Secretaries of those Societies not given, please notify us of the time and place of their respective exhibitions, that we may be able to give a full list for the State:

Andover Agricultural and Horticultural Society at Andover, Oct. 6th, 7th and 8th.
Franklin, at Franklin, Sept. 29th and Oct. 1st.
Kennebec, at Kennebec, Oct. 14th and 15th.
North Waldo, at Unity, Oct. 21st and 22d.
Waldo, at Waldo, Oct. 7th, 8th and 9th.
North Penobscot, at Lincoln Center, Oct. 7th and 8th.
West Somerset, at North Anson, Oct. 14th and 15th.
North Anson Agricultural and Horticultural Society, at Penesse, Oct. 7th and 8th.
Sagadahoc, at Topsham, Oct. 13th, 14th, and 15th.
Cumberland Agricultural and Horticultural Societies hold a joint exhibition at Portland, commencing Oct. 14th and continuing several days.
Kennebec Union Agricultural and Horticultural at Gardiner, Oct. 7th and 8th.
West Oxford, at Fryburg, Oct. 13th, 14th and 15th.
North Kennebec at Waterville, Oct. 6th and 7th.
Piscataquis Central Agricultural and Horticultural exhibition, Oct. 7th and 8th.
Oxford, at Oxford, Sept. 29th and 30th.
East Oxford, at Randolph, Oct. 14th and 15th.
North Franklin, at Strong, Oct. 7th and 8th.
There will be no exhibition by the State Agricultural Society this year.

Applying Manure in Autumn.

If you have a supply of fine composted manure, its application this fall on your grass lands, before the rains come freely, so that they can wash it into the roots, will pay you next year. We said *five* compost. All manures, before they can be of any avail to the growing crop as a nutritive agent, must be finely pulverized, either by your self before applying them or by the pulverizing agents, viz: frost and decomposition. Coarse lumps and masses are, while in that state, little better than so many rocks of the same size. It is therefore important that you adopt some process by which the compost, or whatever else it be, that you apply, should be, if possible, reduced to a fine condition. We must not have it so fine that the winds would blow it away, unless you had some method of mingling it intimately and immediately with the soils. In these grass lands can only be done by the rains, with safety to the roots.

There is undoubtedly a benefit derived from application of manure to lands in the fall, aside from their fertilizing properties. This is by their protective power as a mulch, or covering to the roots from the frosts and cold of winter. This is undoubtedly a benefit to lands that have no crops on them when it is applied, but is to be cultivated next season. We infer this from the following fact. It is customary for farmers, after breaking up land that they intend to plant their Indian corn on next season, to haul out in the fall their compost which they propose to manure in the hill, and deposit it in large piles in different parts of the field, there to remain during the winter. These heaps cover the ground where they are deposited, in some instances two or three feet in depth. In the spring, at planting time, these heaps are shoveled into the corn and dropped out into the hills. The surface is shoveled up with the compost, and the spots where the heaps lie are oftentimes made cleaner than any other spot of similar size on the field. And yet, you will observe that the corn growing on those spots, is much earlier, larger and better than that of other parts of the same field. It may be said that the rains have washed a larger portion of the soluble parts of the heap into the soil and thereby impregnated it with a larger portion of fertilizing matter. This may be true in part, but it seems oftentimes that the results are greater than can be fairly attributed to this cause. We think therefore that a part of the increased crop must be attributed to the fact that the soil so covered did not freeze so deep nor become cooled down so low, during winter, as adjacent uncovered spots. It therefore did not require so long a time to become warmed up as the other, and therefore the corn started earlier and kept ahead of the other corn.

If this position be correct it shows the value of a mulching during winter. We have no doubt that, if a pile of shavings or sawdust, should cover your corn ground two feet deep during winter, and then taken off entirely at planting, the crop of that season would be materially improved in consequence of the earlier start it would get in consequence. We should like to see the experiment tried. It might be done on a few rods with little labor or cost.

A few more remarks upon the advantage of pulverizing or reducing manures to a comparatively fine condition of particles may not be unprofitable. The editor of the *Country Gentleman*, a few months ago, gave some very good suggestions on this subject, from which we quote the following:—"In cases where it is necessary to apply coarse manure at once, much may be done in lessening the evils of coarseness by artificially grinding it into the soil. The implement called the *drag roller*—which is like the common roller set at an angle so as to revolve, and is used to great advantage for this purpose, by passing it over the surface in connection with the harrow. We have known this treatment to effect a thorough intermixture, and to more than double the crop obtained by common management with coarse manure."

We recollect of seeing, some years since, an invention for not only pulverizing, but also spreading manure evenly by the operation of the team, which we think was a very good plan. It was a cart body made like a hopper, the front and back end being made sloping. At the bottom was placed two rollers with teeth, or projections, passing near or against each other revolving. The rollers turned in one direction each other, and were propelled by gear work which could be matched on or off of cogs in the periphery of the wheel hubs of the cart. When in operation, the moderately dry compost was not only pulverized but spread evenly as the team moved along over the surface where it was to be applied.

HIGH PRICED BECKS. At a late sale of South Down sheep held at Thorndale, New York, the imported prize ram Archbishop was sold for \$500. Others sold for prices varying from \$17 to \$131 apiece.

Crop Statistics.

The monthly Report of the Commissioner of Agriculture, on the condition of the crops for August, is received earlier in the month than usual, and the abstract which we give below is, therefore, more timely and interesting.

The first of the last of August was very destructive, in the great Western grain producing States. The general average of injury will probably be about one quarter or 25 per cent. The extent of the frost was great, embracing the States of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, parts of Kentucky, and the eastern portions of Missouri and Kansas, doing but little injury in these portions.

In following summary no notice is taken of those States which have suffered by the frost, but those only noticed where the crops will, probably, now mature without injury. These States are Connecticut, Delaware, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont.

CONN. This crop is excellent. In Maryland and Pennsylvania it is but *one-tenth* below an average, whilst the rest are either an average or above it. The average of all is 104.

TENNESSEE. This is within a very small fraction of an average crop. The injuries to it are small.

SONORA. Of the States named, this crop is grown in but six of them, and in them it is just an average crop; but the heavy crop of this product lies within the frostless States, and hence it is unnecessary to dwell longer upon it now.

FLA. The crop of rice, being injured by frost, may be considered for all the States, except Delaware, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island, that it does not produce it. The crop is nearly a general average, being 93 bushels to the acre.

THE LIST ON STRAW OR FLAX. To the question whether the list or straw was saved, the report shows 213 yes against 46 no.

CORRUM. As nearly all of this product, of which we have returns, is in the frostless States, we must await the next monthly report for an account of its condition.

THE HAY CROP. This great crop of all sections of the country has been secured in a much better condition than was anticipated from the constant rains in the Eastern States during the harvest. In Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island, the condition of the hay was *two-tenths* below an average, and in Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Vermont it was *one-tenth* below. In the remainder of the States it was of an average condition, or above it. How far the frost may have injured corn fodder, so as to make feeding substances scarce, cannot now be determined, but where hay is scarcest the fodder is most injured. In the wheat straw in these sections is excellent.

FRUIT. The general returns in the column for grapes present a favorable account of this delicious fruit. It is 24 in appearance, but the rot, nevertheless, has prevailed to a considerable extent in many localities, and the Concord, which an eminent pomologist at Cincinnati but recently classed among the hardy varieties, has suffered much from mildew. It is yet too early to determine how far the Delaware can uphold itself against heavy frosts and unfavorable climatic influences.

The peach crop shows a great deal of irregularity, as is usual with it, but it may be set down as a good crop. That of apples possesses much of the same irregularity. In Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and Ohio, the crop will be light, but in the other States it will be greater than last year. Pears are more hardy than apples, and their production is evidently increasing.

POTATOES. The continued drought in many sections of Iowa, Illinois and Indiana, have materially lessened this crop in those States, and the frost of August will destroy much of the late planted. Our table shows the crop as *two-tenths* below average, and in those States it is *one-tenth* or twenty per cent. below an average. The injury from potato bugs has not been so great as usual. In Maryland, Minnesota, and Rhode Island, their condition is the same, and in Ohio it is down as low as 7, or *three-tenths* below an average. The rest of the States exhibit an average of 11, or nearly *one-tenth* above an average.

GARDENS. The appearance of the gardens is not much different from that of the potato crop. They have suffered from drought in the large western States, of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa, as also in Minnesota and Nebraska Territory. But they are increasing in number and extent.

FRUIT. In the great graining States of the West the condition of fall pastures is not favorable, but in the other States it is unusually good, owing to the rains of August.

BUTTER. The amount made is nearly an average, being 9-11. The droughts in the Western States have caused a diminished amount. The demand for it, however, has been above an average, being 11, or *one-tenth* more. The high prices of meats have led to this, and so has but little doubt of the fact, that so long as present prices for meat, butter will be much more largely consumed than usual.

CHEESE. Without entering into detail, it may be said that this product, as to supply and demand, is in the same condition as butter.

Poss with Potatoes.

A Maine correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* writes as follows in regard to growing peas among potatoes. "What is the opinion of our farmers on the subject?"

"Speaking of potatoes leads me to say that I observed in the course of my tour several fields in which potatoes and peas were growing together. This I cannot but regard as an injurious practice, potatoes that will be discarded by all good farmers after one or two years' trial. Until within a few years there has been a common practice among farmers here to plant peas with potatoes, a practice that I formerly followed myself, but which I have entirely given up. I believe it injures the potatoes more than the profit of peas; indeed, an observing and practical farmer recently said to me that he was satisfied his crop of potatoes last year would have been one-third larger had peas not been planted with them. In pulling the peas which is usually done about the last week in August, the potatoes in the hill are greatly disturbed and their growth stopped. If peas so much disturb the potatoes, beans must disturb them to a greater extent, for their roots are larger, and hold on with greater tenacity. Any crop planted with potatoes that is harvested during the season of the soil about the hill so early in the season as August, should not be grown with potatoes."

Agricultural Exhibitions.

The last of this, and the first of next month is the season of agricultural exhibitions, or of cattle shows and fairs. As will be seen by our list, the number of these holidays in Maine has not lessened, even though we are experiencing troublous times, and thousands of our country boys are absent from the field of labor.

We have a word to offer in regard to these exhibitions, or perhaps we should say, to the farmers of Maine, and that is *attend your county fairs.* Make it your special and particular business to be on hand and in time, for one, two, or three days, as the case may be. Don't say you haven't got time, but take time; you owe it to yourself, that you give yourself a day of relaxation. You have worked hard enough during these past five months to merit it, and as your rewards have been good, so much more the propriety of acknowledging it in this, an appropriate manner.

This much for yourself. Now there is your family; take them all if convenient, but the boys must be allowed to go by all means, for it is their holiday, *par excellence.* You want them to be farmers; you don't want them to become disgusted with farm life, as is too often the case. Of course not. Well, let them understand that they have by right at least one holiday in which they can enjoy freedom from work and learn something new, and peculiarly adapted to their calling.

One more item. Don't you think of attending an agricultural exhibition without contributing something to help fill up the list of articles exhibited. Don't go with the expectation of enjoying what your neighbor has done while you do nothing to repay him for his labor. You can see that is not doing things on the square. Got nothing fit to carry have you? Well, now suppose everybody was of that same opinion, would you think the fair would amount to? Go to, friend, you know better. You can't all do that to have the best, or that everything will be a miracle of size or weight, or that every article entered will obtain a premium. Carry the best you have got, and carry it simply for the sake of contributing to the good work. Did you ever notice how large a space there was left unfilled in the cattle stalls, or in the hall at your annual fair. Don't let it be so again, or at least don't let the cause thereof hang upon your shoulders.

Then again how often you have heard some one say or perhaps have said yourself, "That isn't of much account, could have done better myself, &c." Now all that is required of you is to do better, or the best you can, and if all or a large number of our farmers will do the same, there need be no more fear of societies without support, and empty stalls and exhibition halls.

We repeat it; go to the fair, and don't go empty handed.

A Swindle.

We are in possession of evidence from authentic sources, which fully proves that the Agricultural Department at Washington has lately been made the object of a swindling operation on a small scale, by some party or parties in Seaboard, Waldo County.

It appears that some person or persons obtained one of the blanks recently issued by the Department, and filling it up with names purporting to be those of an agricultural society and its officers, have by this means obtained packages of seeds, &c., from the Department.

The name of the society was given as the Seaboard Agricultural Society, embracing the territory of Seaboard County, number of members twenty and the following officers, all of Seaboard: President, N. A. Packard; Secretary, E. T. Cushman; Treasurer, G. L. Cushman.

There is no such society in existence, and the whole thing is a swindle got up by Messrs. Cushman and Packard to enable them to obtain whatever the Department should distribute from time to time. Although it is a small, mean, contemptible fraud, still we deem it our province to show up the affair for the benefit of those who might be tempted to resort to such practices.

Second Crop—Bloody Milk—Queries. Messrs. Editors:—I have a very excellent cow that has given bloody milk from one teat for about six weeks; there is no injury to the bag that I can discover. If you can inform me of the cure, or recommend a cure, you will confer a great favor.

I have a field of clover, second crop, that is pretty well headed out. The soil is clay loam and I wish to inquire if it will injure the crop next year by cutting this fall, more than it would to let it remain on the ground.

Respectfully yours, H. K. ROBINSON.
Brenn, Sept. 17th, 1863.

NOTE. These inquiries were received too late for our last week's issue and are now rather out of date. We should be pleased to hear from our correspondents in regard to a remedy for bloody milk. Meanwhile we should say, give the cow a tablespoonful of powdered saltpeter in some meal, renewing the dose for a couple of days, which may have a good effect. A correspondent of the *Journal of Agriculture* says, he has cured several cases by giving the cow a quart of white beans. Try it.

Flax Culture.

Congress at its last session appropriated \$20,000 for investigation in regard to the feasibility of cultivating and preparing flax and hemp as a substitute for cotton. The Commissioner of Agriculture placed the whole matter in the hands of a committee who in pursuance of their object have passed the following resolution, to which we call the attention of flax growers, manufacturers and all others interested. All packages, letters, &c., on this subject should be addressed to Commissioner of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

"Resolved, That the Commissioner of Agriculture be requested to issue an advertisement, by circular or otherwise, calling upon manufacturers and experimenters to send to this Department, on or before the 20th day of November, samples of the fibres and fabrics prepared by them, and then scrape off the rest. In this way you get but little of the hull. Some soil before cutting. Spread the corn on plates to dry in the sun, or in an oven, a brick oven is preferred. A cup of beans to two cups of the dried corn, is the rule of the stalks or straw of flax or hemp."

Book Farming.

We are aware that at this late day, and in this age of general progression in all professions, there are many well disposed persons opposed to what they term "book-farming." Now let such persons throw aside their prejudices and examine the subject carefully, and they cannot fail to be thoroughly convinced of the fact that the present advanced state of agriculture in our country is due almost wholly to this "book-farming"—is due to this interchange and discussion of thought, facts and ideas through and by means of the agricultural press. Other means have contributed to this result, but the press has been the great promoter.

Farmers are necessarily so situated that the aid obtained by association is limited and confined. A farmer may follow a particular system or method which produces valuable results, may practice some mode of crop raising, or of stock growing, and be unusually successful, or may practice some improved mode of action, in some one or more of the many operations of the farm, and yet it may be years before any but his immediate neighbors are aware of it. But once let him give his ideas to the columns of the agricultural paper, and it is no longer a secret, it goes out to all, and it is valuable as of value to all. Thus each one may be a public benefactor, and instead of keeping a good thing to himself, "do good and communicate."

What a number of good practical hints and ideas have been lost, by neglecting to put them in writing and sending them to the nearest agricultural paper. Farmers should look into this matter. They have their journals, devoted to their interest and whose columns are open for their use, and they should not neglect this method of assisting each other and contributing to each other's happiness and improvement.

Communications.

Letter from Astorhook.

The present season has been remarkable, I think for its extreme weather being very hot or cold, wet or dry, and "winter fingers in the lap of May." It was not poetry alone, but truth. On the 4th of May it snowed here all day, also on the 13th, to the depth of six inches. On the 22d we experienced summer heat, and there were some other hot days in May. On the 16th and 17th of June there was a cold north wind with clouds—some flakes of snow fell about ten o'clock A. M., and at night, the hardest frost I have ever seen in this month. It killed corn and beans, also buckwheat and potatoes were killed. I was up at 2 o'clock some hot days and the severest drought I ever knew.

Early in the season, here or elsewhere. Grass and grain began to wither. Second week in July began the heated term. We had splendid weather, not making hay but for crops to grow. 25th a copious rain; 26th, another which thoroughly soaked the ground and filled the streams to overflowing. Many of the nights were so warm that bed clothes were unnecessary—they used to say that is the weather for corn to grow—it did grow surprisingly; also beans and vines, and surely weeds. The weather since has been dry, favorable for laying hay but for crops to grow. Some destructive hail or tornadoes, and but little thunder.

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Book Farming. We are aware that at this late day, and in this age of general progression in all professions, there are many well disposed persons opposed to what they term "book-farming." Now let such persons throw aside their prejudices and examine the subject carefully, and they cannot fail to be thoroughly convinced of the fact that the present advanced state of agriculture in our country is due almost wholly to this "book-farming"—is due to this interchange and discussion of thought, facts and ideas through and by means of the agricultural press. Other means have contributed to this result, but the press has been the great promoter.

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Communications. For the Maine Farmer.

Merino Bucks. Messrs. Editors:—I was informed of an inquiry through your paper for full blooded Spanish bucks, and in answer, would say that I have four such, bred by the best breeders in Vermont. One of my bucks, a two-year-old, showed on the 6th day of June, eighteen and a half pounds. One-year-old thirteen and a quarter pounds; another thirteen pounds, the other twelve and a half. I have also two young ones from full blooded Spanish ewes. I will send three of the above described bucks as low as bucks of like quality can be purchased in the State. I have some more that I will send you, if you wish to purchase them. He knows the value of the stock, and he will not sell them for less than he can get for them. I will send you three of the above described bucks as low as bucks of like quality can be purchased in the State. I have some more that I will send you, if you wish to purchase them. He knows the value of the stock, and he will not sell them for less than he can get for them. 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Table 1. Mean values of variables measured during the 60-min test

	Mean ± SD
Age (years)	27.8 ± 1.9
Height (cm)	178.5 ± 5.5
Weight (kg)	75.5 ± 10.5
VO _{2max} (l·min ⁻¹)	3.8 ± 0.4
VO ₂ at rest (l·min ⁻¹)	1.8 ± 0.2
VO ₂ at 30 min (l·min ⁻¹)	2.8 ± 0.3
VO ₂ at 60 min (l·min ⁻¹)	2.5 ± 0.2
HR at rest (beats·min ⁻¹)	72 ± 8
HR at 30 min (beats·min ⁻¹)	155 ± 12
HR at 60 min (beats·min ⁻¹)	148 ± 10
RPE at 30 min	12.5 ± 1.5
RPE at 60 min	11.5 ± 1.5
ΔRPE (RPE at 60 min - RPE at 30 min)	-1.0 ± 1.0
ΔHR (HR at 60 min - HR at 30 min)	-7.0 ± 5.0
ΔVO ₂ (VO ₂ at 60 min - VO ₂ at 30 min)	-0.3 ± 0.2
ΔT _{vent} (min)	1.5 ± 0.5
ΔT _{vent} /ΔRPE (min per unit RPE)	1.5 ± 0.5
ΔT _{vent} /ΔHR (min per unit HR)	0.2 ± 0.1
ΔT _{vent} /ΔVO ₂ (min per unit VO ₂)	5.0 ± 2.0

